

Prizes Offered to the Country and City Schools.

The North Carolina Nature Study Society has secured several valuable prizes which will be awarded to those members of the Society who submit the best proof of their activity in Nature work during the coming year. Membership to the Society costs only ten cents a year, or members may be admitted without any fee; so that anyone desiring to do so may become a member, and the competition is, therefore, open to all schools in the State.

Some of the prizes are awarded to the schools as a whole, and some to individuals. Can you not, in your school, call attention to this opportunity and awaken some enthusiasm upon the subject, and have your scholars begin work in making collections, or tests as described below, in some of the contests?

What an honor it would be to your school to secure even one of these prizes, and how delightful it will be to have the prize in the school next year. Even if you do not win the prize, the effort which you make will be of great value to you and your school. Arouse local pride, and get the efforts of your scholars centered upon one or more of these competitions. Do the very best that you can, and your chance for the prize is as good as that of any other school in the State. You may compete for one of the prizes, or for all of them, just as you like. It is probably wiser to select two or three and center your energies upon them.

When you decide into which competition your school will enter, notify the State Secretary. At the close of school, or when you have completed your part of the contest, appoint a board of judges from your district to decide who in your school has done best in competition for the individual prizes, and then forward the exhibits for the individual prizes and the school prizes to a person in your county, to be named later. There the best exhibits for each prize will be selected and forwarded to Raleigh for final award. All exhibits must be judged in the county before they are forwarded to Raleigh. Only two from each county in each contest shall be allowed at the final judgment, and such exhibits must reach Raleigh before July 13, 1905.

The subjects of competition are stated below, with suggestions for the competitors:

Competition No. 1.—The best collection of seeds named and mounted. First prize, one year's subscription to St. Nicholas, an exceedingly popular magazine for children. Second prize, Carleton Plant Studies, an interesting book about plants. This exhibit will include as many kinds of seeds of wild and cultivated plants and weeds as you can secure. Mount them in cases in as attractive way as you can for exhibition. The nicest way is to put them in small vials of uniform size, each vial being properly labelled. If you do not know the name of the seed, find the plant that it came from, and then inquire until you find the name of

that plant. If you cannot find the name of it in any other way, write to one of the Board of Advisors.

Competition No. 2.—Essay upon "Our Oaks." Prize, "How to Know the Trees," a beautifully illustrated book telling about our trees. Second prize, Carter's Nature Study with Common Things, a fine nature study book. Find all of the kinds of oaks you can, draw the leaves and acorns and describe the bark and branches. Tell the use of woods, value of the tree, kind of place that it grows, etc. Write to the State Geologist, Chapel Hill, N. C., and request him to send you Bulletin No. 6 on "Timber Trees and Forests of North Carolina."

Competition No. 3.—Essay on "Our Pines," two hundred words or less, with abundant drawings. First prize, one year's subscription to the Youth's Companion, a magnificent magazine for boys and girls. Second prize, "Springtime Flowers," a beautiful illustrated book. For suggestions, see Competition No. 2.

Competition No. 4.—Best map of some region showing kinds of soils, with collection of soils and sub-soils mounted and labelled. You would best mount the soils, like the seeds, in small vials. Use colors in the map to represent different soils. Prize, "Every-day Birds," a book about the birds we all know. It is illustrated by twelve colored plates. Second prize, a book on "Plant Baby and Its Friends."

Competition No. 5.—The best collection of insects (barred if not properly killed). Prize, one-fourth dozen cases for mounting insects. (Riker mounts.) Before attempting this, secure from Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., their bulletin entitled, "How to Make Insect Collections." This will cost only a few cents.

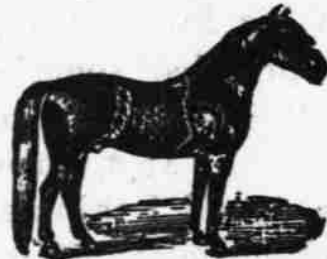
Competition No. 6.—Best report on seed vitality (open only to girls). Prize, one scholarship to the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Value, \$20. Read in your text-book on agriculture how to test seed vitality. A good report should contain results gotten from a great many kinds of seeds. It should be accurate and very concise. Make the report in the form of a table.

Competition No. 7.—The best report upon the occurrences of fire blight. Prize, one scholarship to the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Value, \$20. Read in your text-book on agriculture about the fire blight. Be sure that you can recognize the disease. Make a map of your community, indicating the healthy trees and the diseased trees. Estimate the damage done by this, and make some experiments as suggested in your agriculture book.

Competition No. 8.—The largest collection of moths and butterflies properly killed and mounted, hatched from cocoons by the exhibitor. Prize, Dickerson's Moths and Butterflies, a valuable book with fine pictures of many moths and butterflies, and much information and value about them. Second prize, "Hours With Nature," books one and two.

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